



**Minutes of the Historic District Commission
Thursday, March 3, 2022
Brookfield Town Hall**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Jacqueline Salame, Chairperson

Members Present: Robert Brown, Vice Chairperson; Kevin Archer, Elise DeSousa, Rosemary Erb-Fawcett, Harold Proudfoot

Members Absent: Tammara McMahon, Land Use Department Director Richelle Hodza (not present)

Public Attendance:

Public Hearing

No public hearing at this meeting.

Business Meeting opened at 7:15 p.m.

Old Business:

R. Brown moved to accept the November 4, 2021 minutes as submitted. R. Erb-Fawcett seconded; all approved.

New Business:

Intent to erect a communications facility (165 foot cell tower) at 60 Vale Road by Homeland Towers, LLC has retained All-Points Technology Corporation. Stacey Vairo is the Architectural Historian for All Points Technology Corporation.

R. Brown provided a historical perspective...

"Back in the day, the area was known as "Bound Swamp," and what usable land there was, was used for farming. The oldest remaining house (almost the only house) in the area is on the north corner of Vale Road next to the railroad tunnel under the tracks. In the last 25 years, this historic home has been remodeled to the point that the original house is no longer recognizable.

Just northwest of the house and on the other side of the tracks is the Northrop cemetery, established long before the railroad. When the tracks were laid, this cemetery was cut off from seemingly any access and subsequently long abandoned.

The Iroquois gas pipeline runs directly under the cemetery, quite a major project for them to avoid disrupting graves. Directly on the west side of the cemetery is Gray's Bridge Farm and

Earth Materials Co. The area across from the old house near the tunnel has been a commercial nightmare for many years, many of the years as a junkyard. On the southwest side of Vale is a couple commercial businesses, one of which will be the location of the cell tower (a property owned by a Frank Canduollo), certainly not visible to anywhere near the Historic District.”

The members of the HDC agreed that there would not be any negative impact that they could foresee on the Historic District nor on any of the historic properties within range of the new cell tower location. J. Salame contacted S. Vairo to see if there was anything that the HDC should be aware of with the project.

First Selectperson Tara Carr, requested information for her “State of the Town” report. Suggestions from the Commission members are as follows:

- Explain what exactly what the Historic District Commission does – manages District with 63 properties.
- Establish Historic District No. 2 for the Brookfield Craft Center.
- Check boxes on assessors designating historic homes and buildings, including registered historic properties and districts.
- Notice of demolition of old buildings older than 50 years.
- Replacement of the Historic District signs.
- Walking tour of the Historic District 2.0.
- Better communication and coordination with the other commissions on projects that include historic properties.
- Waiting for additional comments from the HDC members.

The Commission members should email additional thoughts for the “State of the Town” to J. Salame to include in the report.

K. Archer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m.; H. Proudfoot seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brown, Secretary